

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title: Project CAT (carnivores and teaching)		Project No. 09-706
Region/GMU: Statewide	HPC: Statewide	
Project Type: Large Carnivore Education and Habitat Project (Mountain lions)		
Project Description: Develop an education program, to be managed in collaboration with the Education, Research and Game Branches of the Arizona Game and Fish Department and the U of A School of Natural Resources, that will allow mid-school and secondary school teachers access to the real time data for in-the-classroom use for the education of pupils concerning large carnivore ecology and management.		
Wildlife Species to Benefit: Mountain lions		
Possible Funding Partners: ADBSS		
Implementation Schedule: Beginning: March 2010 Completed: On-going	NEPA Compliance: (if applicable) NA Completed: Yes ____ No ____ Projected Completion Date: NA	

PROJECT FUNDING

SBG Funds Requested: \$15,400 (100% lion SBGTF)	
Cost Share Funds:	\$30,000 current match in-kind from on-going BioME grant to Aletris Neils (U of A)
Total Project Costs:	\$73,400

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION

Applicant: Ron Thompson (please print) Telephone: 623 236-7354	Address: 5000 W. Carefree Hwy Phoenix, AZ 85086
AGFD Contact and Phone No. (If applicant is not AGFD personnel)	
Coordinated with: ADBSS	Date: 8/30/08
Applicant's signature:	Date: 9/01/09

SEND COMPLETED APPLICATIONS TO:

Game Branch
 5000 W. Carefree Highway
 Phoenix, AZ 85086

WAS PROJECT PRESENTED TO THE LOCAL HPC? YES Last year NO ____
 NA

HAS PROJECT BEEN SUBMITTED IN PREVIOUS YEARS? IF SO WAS IT FUNDED?
NO

NEED STATEMENT/PROBLEM ANALYSIS:

The Department's ability to manage large carnivores is founded in public attitudes and knowledge of these focal apex species. Acceptance or rejection of large carnivore management in Arizona and the principles of predator-prey relationships and management is based in an ability to transfer science-based information concerning these important carnivores to a generation of youth today. The development of an in-the-classroom program that allows students to discover, record, analyze and derive conclusions from data transmitted directly from the animal itself on a daily basis is needed. Additionally, there is a need to interest students in careers in wildlife conservation and management, with opportunities to work for the Arizona Game and Fish Department and/or the state's tribal wildlife management departments.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

Implement lesson plans for mountain lion ecology and management that will utilize real time location and movement data from radio-collared animals that are being studied during Department research projects. Four of the primary objectives are to: 1) teach predator-prey relationships and biology to our next generation of wildlife managers and voters, 2) introduce students to a career in wildlife biology and hopefully with the Arizona Game and Fish Department, and 3) participate in a number of on-going research projects on connectivity and habitat fragmentation due to development and highways and 4) document mountain lion use and movement between habitats that were historically occupied by desert bighorn sheep (Catalina Mountains).

PROJECT STRATEGIES:

Participating teachers (usually science teachers) for grades 6-12 are given a subscription to a satellite-based data transmission system such as ARGOS that transfers real-time locations of radio-collared mountain lions and black bears. Students will utilize the information to complete lesson plans for topics such as home range calculation, habitat needs and prey availability. Field projects might include cache sites and linkage corridor analysis.

PROJECT LOCATION:

Statewide

LAND OWNERSHIP AT PROJECT SITE (Please state specifically if PRIVATE PROPERTY and provide landowner's name):

NA

IF PRIVATE PROPERTY, IS THERE A STEWARDSHIP AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE LANDOWNER AND THE DEPARTMENT?

NA

HABITAT DESCRIPTION:

All habitats

ITEMIZED USE OF FUNDS:

\$ 1,800 for 3 satellite collar data subscriptions

\$13,600 for collaring and data analysis by a U of A graduate student

\$15,400 Total

LIST COOPERATORS AND DESCRIBE POTENTIAL PARTICIPATION:

Arizona Big Game Super Raffle-Auction/raffle of special big game tag

Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep Society – Auction and raffle of special big game tag

U of A

PROJECT MONITORING PLAN:

The Research, Game, Habitat and Education Branch will form a team to monitor the program. Students would participate in an annual conference to present their findings with symposia style talks and poster sessions.

PROJECT MAINTENANCE:

Future donation account funding.

PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT TO BE FILED BY:

U of A graduate student